

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A photothermographic material, comprising:  
a support;  
an image forming layer disposed on the support and containing a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent, and a binder; and  
a silver-saving agent,  
wherein silver iodide is contained in the photosensitive silver halide in an amount of 40 to 100 mol%, and  
wherein an image gradation obtained by heat development is 2 to 4.

2. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the image forming layer has a multilayered structure comprising at least a first image forming layer and a second image forming layer, and at least the first image forming layer contains the silver-saving agent, and the second image forming layer does not contain the silver-saving agent.

3. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 2, wherein the first image forming layer containing the silver-saving agent is disposed closer to the support, and the

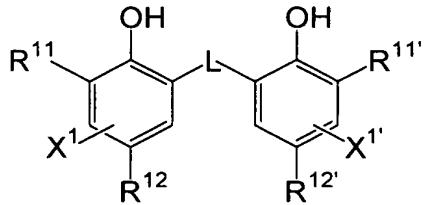
second image forming layer not containing the silver-saving agent is disposed more distant from the support.

4. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 2, wherein the first image forming layer containing the silver-saving agent is disposed more distant from the support, and the second image forming layer not containing the silver-saving agent is disposed closer to the support.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the reducing agent contains a compound represented by the following formula (R):

Formula (R)



wherein R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>11'</sup> each independently represent an alkyl group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms, in which a carbon atom bonding with a benzene ring is secondary or tertiary; R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>12'</sup> each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a group capable of being substituted on the benzene ring; L represents -S- or -CHR<sup>13</sup>, in which R<sup>13</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and X<sup>1</sup> and

$X^1$ ' each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a group capable of being substituted on the benzene ring.

7. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, further comprising a development accelerator.

8. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the photothermographic material is capable of being exposed by a laser light source.

9. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 8, wherein the laser light source has a wavelength of 350 nm to 450 nm.

10. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 8, wherein the laser light source is a blue semiconductor laser.

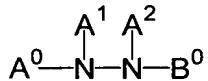
11. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein a total amount of coated silver including the photosensitive silver halide and the non-photosensitive organic silver salt is 0.1 to 3.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

12. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 3.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

13. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is contained in the image forming layer in an amount of 5 to 50 mol% per mole of silver on a surface having the image forming layer.

14. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is a hydrazine derivative compound represented by the following formula (V):

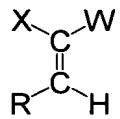
Formula (V)



wherein  $A^0$  represents an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, or  $-G^0-D^0$ , each of which may have a substituent;  $B^0$  represents a blocking group; one of  $A^1$  and  $A^2$  represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, a sulfonyl group, or an oxaryl group;  $G^0$  represents  $-CO-$ ,  $-COCO-$ ,  $-CS-$ ,  $-C(=NG^1D^1)-$ ,  $-SO-$ ,  $-SO_2-$ , or  $-P(O)(G^1D^1)-$ , in which  $G^1$  represents a single bond,  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$ , or  $-N(D^1)-$ , and  $D^1$  represents an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, or a hydrogen atom; and  $D^0$  represents one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an amino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, and an arylthio group.

15. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is a vinyl compound represented by the following formula (VI):

Formula (VI)

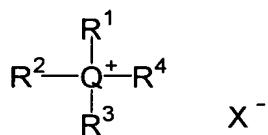


wherein X represents an electron attracting group; W represents one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a halogen atom, an acyl group, a thioacyl group, an oxanyl group, an oxyoxanyl group, a thioxoxanyl group, an oxamoyl group, an oxycarbonyl group, a thiocarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a sulfonyl group, a sulfinyl group, an oxysulfinyl group, a thiosulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, an oxysulfinyl group, a thiosulfinyl group, a sulfinamoyl group, a phosphoryl group, a nitro group, an imino group, an N-carbonylimino group, an N-sulfinylimino group, a dicyanoethylene group, an ammonium group, a sulfonium group, a phosphonium group, a pyrylium group, and an immonium group; R represents one selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an alkenyloxy group, an acyloxy group, an alkoxy carbonyloxy group, an aminocarbonyloxy group, a mercapto group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, a heterocyclic thio group, an alkenylthio group, an acylthio group, an alkoxy carbonylthio group, an aminocarbonylthio group, an organic or inorganic salt of a hydroxyl group or a mercapto group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a cyclic amino group, an acylamino group, an oxycarbonylamino group, a

heterocyclic group, a ureido group, and a sulfonamido group; and X and W, and X and R may bond with each other to form a ring.

16. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is a quaternary onium compound represented by the following formula (VII):

Formula (VII)



wherein Q represents a nitrogen atom or a phosphorus atom; R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> each independently represent one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, and an amino group; X<sup>-</sup> represents an anion; and R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>4</sup> may bond with each other to form a ring.

17. (Original) The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the silver-saving agent is contained in the image forming layer or a layer adjacent to the image forming layer in an amount of 10<sup>-5</sup> to 1 mol per mole of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

18. (New) The photothermographic material of claim 1,

wherein the silver iodide is contained in the photosensitive silver halide in an amount of 80 to 100 mol%.

19. (New) The photothermographic material of claim 1,  
wherein the silver iodide is contained in the photosensitive silver halide in an amount of 90 to 100 mol%.